

79393

December 20, 1979

NEW COUNCIL BEGINS WORK

GREENWICH, Conn.—The newly formed Executive Council of the Episcopal Church began its three years' work with a Eucharist and commissioning service during which Presiding Bishop John M. Allin declared, "There has never been any greater need -- and hence opportunity for Christian mission -- than the present time."*

For many of the newly elected Council members, the work actually began the day before -- Dec. 11 -- with an orientation, briefing and tour at the Episcopal Church Center in New York. Those members were then bused out to the National Episcopal Church Conference Center at Seabury House, here, for the Dec. 12-14 meeting.

The Executive Council -- which sets policy and develops programs for the Church between the triennial meetings of General Convention -- consists of 44 members: 24 elected by the General Convention; 18 elected by the Church's nine internal provinces and the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies, Dr. Charles R. Lawrence. Recent changes in the Church's laws have doubled the number of provincial representatives -- provinces previously elected one each -- and pared back the representation elected directly by each convention from 14 to ten.

With changes in provincial representatives, it meant that more than half the Council was new and Bishop Allin called on them to help the Church "mount and sustain missionary ministries and services which could make good and positive differences in human living." He asked them to give priority to "disciplined planning, both long-range and immediate."

* See DPS # 79394 for the text of Bishop Allin's remarks.

He told them that, in response to a Convention resolution, the Council would be asked to engage in long range planning and that a joint steering committee of members of Council and of the State of the Church Committee of Convention would be named.

As a first step, Bishop Allin asked that the Council committees take time during the meeting to examine two papers: an examination of trends and conditions in the U.S. entitled: What's Really Happening in the U.S., and a working paper by the Urban Bishops' Coalition called The Challenge for Evangelism and Mission.

Scrutiny of those papers became part of the agenda of the six standing committees through which Council does much of its work. These committees met for all the rest of Wednesday and through the morning of Thursday. The six are based on the working divisions of the Episcopal Church Center staff and are designed to help the Council respond to the tasks detailed for it in Church law.

The six and their chairmen are: Education for Mission and Ministry, chaired by the Rt. Rev. Donald Parsons, Bishop of Quincy; National Mission in Church and Society, chaired by Joseph L. Hargrove of the Diocese of Western Louisiana; World Mission in Church and Society, chaired by the Rt. Rev. William H. Folwell, Bishop of Central Florida; Communication, chaired by the Rt. Rev. Philip A. Smith, Bishop of New Hampshire; Stewardship/Development, chaired by the Rev. Maurice Benitez of the Diocese of Texas and Finance/Administration, chaired by Matthew K. Chew of the Diocese of Arizona.

All except Father Benitez are veterans of the past Council.

Other new members of Council are: Bishop A. Donald Davies of the Diocese of Dallas, Bishop Walter C. Righter of the Diocese of Iowa, the Rev. Herbert Donovan of the Diocese of Newark, Mrs. Carter Chinnis of the Diocese of Southeastern Florida, John L. Carson of the Diocese of Colorado, Robert F. Gaines of the Diocese of Northern California, Harry Griffith of the Diocese of Central Florida, Harry W. Havemyer of the Diocese of New York and Mrs. Dixie Hutchinson of the Diocese of Dallas. All of these were elected by General Convention to serve until 1985.

New provincial representatives and their dioceses are: Province I, Mrs. Mary Flagg (Maine); Province II, Mrs. Marjorie L. Christie (Newark); Province III, the Rev. Junius Carter (Pittsburgh) and Ms. Helen Eisenhart (Washington); Province IV, Mrs. Will Caffey (Central Gulf Coast) and Dean Alan Bartlett (Kentucky); Province V, John K. Cannon (Michigan); Province VI, the Rev. Denis O'Pray (Minnesota) and Dr. Arthur Raymond (North Dakota); Province VII, the Rt. Rev. William Davidson (Western Kansas) and William Baker (Kansas); Province VIII, the Rt. Rev. Robert Wolterstorff (San Diego) and Mrs. Ruth Schmidt (Olympia), and Province IX, the Rev. Sergio Carranza, (Central and South Mexico). Province IX will elect one more representative.

Members of the Council continuing until the 1982 General Convention -- in addition to Bishops Folwell, Parsons and Smith, and Messrs. Chew and Hargrove -- are: Bishop Christoph Keller of the Diocese of Arkansas; the Rev. Joseph N. Green, Jr., of the Diocese of Southern Virginia; the Rev. Canon W. Ebert Hobbs of the Diocese of Ohio; the Very Rev. Urban T. Holmes III of the Diocese of Tennessee; Robert H. Ayres, Jr., of the Diocese of Tennessee; Mrs. Leona E. Bryant of the Diocese of the Virgin Islands; Frank P. Foster of the Diocese of Massachusetts; Dr. Paul Neuhauser of the Diocese of Iowa; Mrs. Virginia Ram of the Diocese of Los Angeles; and Harrison Tillman of the Diocese of Georgia.

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PICTURE CAPTION

Council Begins New Ministry

79393 Members of the Episcopal Church Executive Council join Presiding Bishop John M. Allin (at far right) in a Celebration of New Ministry and a Eucharist in the Council chamber at Seabury House Dec. 12, as the newly-elected 44-member interim governing board begins its three-year term.

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